

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/549,538

Examiner

Christian A. Hannon

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Art Unit

2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/13/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/27/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 4-14 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 9, Sudo et al, hereinafter Sudo (US 7,146,195) teaches a biaxial hinge of a biaxial structure having a rotating shaft and an opening/closing shaft (Figures 20 & 21; Sudo), in which a rotating shaft member (Figure 1, Item 38) is fixed to a rotating shaft support member (Figure 1, Item 31), the biaxial hinge has a sliding member (Figure 1, Item 34) disposed so as to rotate synchronously with the rotating shaft member, a rotation-side member (Figure 1, Item 2) which rotates around the rotating shaft member, two elastic bodies (Figure 1, springs 37), two pressing members (Figure 1, Balls 33), and an opening/closing torque unit mechanism with an opening /closing shaft for opening and closing operations to be perpendicular to the rotating shaft member is disposed at either the left or the right of said rotation side member Figure 1, Item 3). However Sudo fails to detail that there are two grooves which are formed on one side of the sliding member facing the rotation side member, two guide members are fixed to the rotation side member to accommodate two pressing members, respectively, therein and guide movements of the respective two pressing members and two elastic bodies which independently press the respective two pressing members. For these reasons the examiner believes the present application to be patentably distinct.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Higano et al (US 6,948,217) disclose a single shaft hinge device comprising a plurality of torque generating sections.

Nishimura (US 2006/0063570) disclose a portable apparatus.

Jung et al (US 2004/0198474) disclose a cellular phone and automatic revolution method thereof.

Jung et al (7,168,135) disclose a rotary hinge mechanism of a portable phone.

Fukuda et al (US 7,106,357) disclose a portable information terminal device having a camera feature.

Wong et al (US 7,117,009) disclose an apparatus and method for electronic device control.

Moon (US 6,275,376) discloses a portable computer display tilt/swivel mechanism and method.

Kang et al (US 2004/0132482) disclose a portable communication device.

Watanabe et al (US 2004/0192422) disclose a folding electric device having perpendicular and horizontal shafts.

Kang et al (US 7,006,853) disclose a rotary type hinge module for a portable wireless device.

Satoh et al (US 7,158,083) disclose a communication terminal.

Kang et al (US 7,146,197) disclose a portable communication device with two housing connected by a cylindrical hinge.

Satoh et al (US 7,272,423) disclose a clamshell portable wireless terminal with an upper housing and a lower housing joined together with a rotating hinge.

Jung et al (US 7,245,948) disclose a cellular phone and automatic revolution method thereof.

Jung et al (US 7,168,135) disclose a rotary hinge mechanism of a portable phone.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian A. Hannon whose telephone number is (571) 272-7385. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

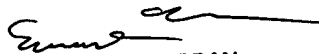
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Urban can be reached on (571) 272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CH

C. A. Hannon
October 18, 2007


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